

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 42ND INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago as it celebrates the 42nd anniversary of its Independence.

Trinidad was settled in the late 1500s by the Spanish, who annihilated the indigenous Arawak and Carib Indian populations on the island. It remained under Spanish rule until the British, enticed by the sugar and cocoa plantations throughout the island, captured it in 1797.

Tobago had a more unsteady development, changing hands over 22 times as the French, Dutch, and British fought over to possess it. Tobago was finally ceded to Great Britain in 1814, and Trinidad and Tobago were incorporated into a single colony in 1888.

Valued for its sugar during the 19th Century, Trinidad became a key oil interest for the British the 20th Century. Oil was discovered in three areas in Trinidad, and oil exports to Britain increased steadily throughout the century, buoyed by the advent of the automobile and the conversion of the British Navy from coal to oil.

In 1941 Britain permitted the United States to establish military bases in Trinidad in exchange for 50 destroyers given to the British government. This began an important period in the country; the G.I.s brought American money and culture to the island, and the Trinidadian people were steadily pulled away from their traditional British loyalties. The Marines also helped construct numerous roads in Trinidad, including the important Northern Coast Road, which is still is functional today.

A nascent movement for independence was born in Trinidad and Tobago in the 1950s, when Eric Williams, a Ph.D. from Howard University, returned to his native country and founded the People's National Movement (PNM). The PNM prevailed in the 1956 national elections, and Dr. Williams became the chief minister of the country from 1956 to 1959, premier from 1959 to 1962, and prime minister from 1962 to 1981. It was Williams who led Trinidad and Tobago into full independence within the Commonwealth in 1962, and he is now considered the father of independent Trinidad and Tobago. Williams died while in office on March 29, 1981.

Trinidad and Tobago joined the United Nations and the Commonwealth immediately after its independence, and in 1967 it became the first Commonwealth country to join the Organization of American States (OAS).

Trinidad and Tobago has enjoyed cordial relations with the United States since independence. U.S. investment in Trinidad and Tobago is nearly two billion dollars, and Trinidad is the

leading exporter of liquefied natural gas to the U.S. Trinidad is also active in the U.S.-initiated Summit of the Americas process and fully supports the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Further, many U.S. citizens and permanent residents call Trinidad and Tobago home, and keep strong cultural ties to their country of origin. Nearly 20,000 U.S. citizens visit Trinidad and Tobago for vacation or business every year, and over 2,700 American citizens are residents of the country. Americans celebrate the history and culture of Trinidad and Tobago with annual carnivals held in numerous cities across the U.S., with a major celebration occurring in Brooklyn every Labor Day.

A leading member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and the most industrialized nation in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago has become a symbol of what Caribbean countries can achieve if they have the opportunities and wherewithal to become economically successful and socially stable.

As Trinidad and Tobago celebrates the 42nd anniversary of its independence, let us join in honoring the achievements of a country that overcame many obstacles to reach heights of prosperity and stability.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO EMERSON SCHOOL

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Emerson School in Grand Junction, Colorado. This school has educated students from Grand Junction for over a century and I am proud to join my colleagues here today before this body of Congress and this nation in recognizing this tremendous institution.

The Emerson School is the oldest building still owned by the in Mesa County Valley School District 51 that is still standing. It was constructed in 1903 during the initial phases of Grand Junction's planning when the town fathers divided the area into quarters and set aside land in each one for a park and a school. Although the school went through some name changes, and is now being used for administration offices, it has for the majority of its existence been reserved for elementary school students.

Mr. Speaker, Emerson School is an institution in Grand Junction that has been used for the important role of educating the youth of Colorado. Their presence in Grand Junction has been a wonderful benefit to the community and the country as these young children go on to future aspirations throughout our great country. I am honored to recognize Emerson School before this body and this nation for their devotion and commitment to education. Congratulations on your celebration of

a century of service and thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

HONORING BRANDON J. McDANIEL FOR HIS NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable actions of Brandon J. McDaniel, for which he was duly awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Corporal McDaniel received the award for superior performance of his duties as an avionics technician, Marine Attack Squadron 231, Detachment Bravo, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, on October 22, 2003. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit was tasked with providing defensive counter air support to Air Force One and the President of the United States during his October visit to Bali, Indonesia. After an AV-8B was forced to return to the ship due to a generator malfunction, Corporal McDaniel proactively removed key components from another AV-8B and when the disabled aircraft landed, he quickly removed the faulty components and reinstalled serviceable components, enabling the aircraft to be returned to the air within an hour.

His quick thinking and sound decision-making directly contributed to the success of the mission and protection of the President during his Far East tour. Corporal McDaniel's initiative and selfless devotion to duty exhibited the highest standards of the Marine Corps and Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Corporal Brandon McDaniel on his medal and commend him for his professional achievement and outstanding service to our Nation.

### THE INDIAN COUNTRY EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

### HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Indian Country Educational Empowerment Act of 2004. This Act will facilitate economic growth and development in Indian Country by dramatically increasing the incentives for individuals with advanced degrees to work within and for Indian Country.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that Native Americans continue to rank at the bottom of every indicator of social and economic well-being in America. Unemployment continues to average near 50 percent in Indian Country and hovers well over 90 percent on many Reservations. Indian Country continues to

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